

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 6 PM
SUNDAY 9.30AM

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING **23 NOVEMBER 2025**

As we come to the Feast of Christ the King, Luke's account of Jesus on the cross offers a striking image of kingship — not one of majesty and triumph, but of mercy and humility. In this moment of suffering and apparent defeat, Jesus reveals the true nature of divine authority: love that forgives, even from the cross. His words, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing," proclaims a kingship rooted not in power, but in compassion and reconciliation.

Alongside Jesus are two criminals, and it is in this exchange with the penitent thief that the mystery of Christ's kingship shines most brightly. When the thief turns to Jesus and says, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom," he acknowledges the crucified man as king. In response, Jesus promises, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The very word 'Paradise', which comes from a Persian word meaning 'garden', has echoes of the Garden of Eden. In Persian tradition, when a king wished to bestow a great honour, he would make someone a "Companion of the Garden" — one invited to walk and talk with the king in his private garden. This sheds light on the beauty of Jesus' promise: the penitent thief is invited into intimate friendship with the divine King, to walk with him forever in the garden of eternal life.

This image also reflects an early Christian belief that the righteous, upon death, are welcomed immediately into God's presence. If waiting for the 'Day of Judgment' is the human condition, perhaps we can see the moment of death as entry into eternity — the human entering the divine, no longer constrained by time and history.

On this Feast of Christ the King, we celebrate a kingdom not of this world — a reign of peace, mercy, and communion with God. Christ's throne is the cross, his crown is of thorns, and his victory is love that conquers sin and death. To recognize Jesus as King is to open ourselves to that same transforming mercy, and to live as companions of the divine garden — citizens of God's eternal kingdom.

Fr Stephen Berecz

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday - Friday: Mass 12.10pm

ETHNIC MASS TIMES

Filipino: Every Sunday at 11.30am

Tongan: 3rd Sunday of the month
1.30pm

Indonesian: 4th Sunday of the month
1:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.00pm - 5.45pm

Weekdays at the Cathedral
11.30am– 12.10pm

ALSO AT ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

First Friday of the month

Sacred Heart of Jesus
Rosary at 6.40pm, Novena at 7pm
Mass at 7.30pm-8.30pm

Third Friday of the month

Holy Child Jesus, Senor Santo Niño
Rosary at 6.40pm, Novena at 7pm
Mass at 7.30pm-8.30pm

Every Wednesday

Mother of Perpetual Help
Rosary at 6.15pm, Novena at 6.45pm
Mass at 7.15pm

Saturdays

Rosary 10am - 20 Decade Rosary
Temporarily moved online
<https://www.facebook.com/20decaderosary>

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES

Contact the Parish Office

Phone: (09) 379 0624

Email: office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Thursday 10am—4pm

Friday 9.30am—2.30pm

Contact Details: Phone (09) 379 0624

Email: office@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

Website: www.stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

St Benedict's Parish Priest

Father Gilbert Ramos

frgilbert@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

Parish Office Staff

Catherine van Veen

catherine@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

Miranda Wagg

miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz

CATHOLIC STUDENT CHAPLAIN

Email: thechaplains@cda.org.nz

ST VINCENT DE PAUL & FOODBANK

Ph 815 6122

PARKING FOR ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH

Free parking is available from **Saturday 9am to Sunday 7pm** in the Wilson carpark on corner of St Benedict's & Alex Evans Street.

Please note: A few parks are marked reserved for tenant parking and are 24 hour tow away. These parks are allocated to nearby residents not the Church

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

First Reading (2 Sam 5:1-3) We see how David became king of a united country. His kingship prefigures the universal kingship of Christ.

Second Reading (Col 1:11-20) Christ is not only head of the Church but Lord of all creation.

Gospel (Lk 23:35-43) Christ reigned from the cross, and brought salvation to one of the thieves crucified with him.

Next weeks readings: Is 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Mt 24:37-44.

For Sunday /weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com



The 2026 Columban Art Calendars are available to purchase for \$13 each. If you wish to purchase, please make payment to the parish bank account (number printed opposite) using “*Calendar*” as the reference. Please email proof of payment to miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz. Once proof of payment is received you can collect your calendar from the parish office or from the sacristy after mass. Please specify preferred option in your email.

The 2026 Claretian Publications Bible Diaries are available to purchase for \$20 each. If you wish to purchase, please make payment to the parish bank account (number printed opposite) using “*Diary*” as the reference. Please email proof of payment to miranda@stbenedictsauckland.org.nz. Once proof of payment is received you can collect your Bible Diary from the parish office or from the sacristy after mass. Please specify preferred option in your email.

Ideal gifts for Christmas!

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of love enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever.

Amen

Resources for families from the Auckland Diocese

Video clips and activities are updated weekly to follow the liturgical year.

Includes puzzles, colouring in pages, and links to other activities.

Open this newsletter in the St Benedict's website or app and follow the links...

Kids Korner: [Click here](#) Parent Ponderings: [Click here](#)

Welcome to St Benedict's

Keep up to date with parish news and download the “St Benedict's Auckland” App from the App store on your mobile device.

Like and follow “St Benedict's Church, Auckland” on Facebook for regular updates and links to the newsletters.

St Benedicts has the following options for planned giving and donations to our Parish:

- Collection at Sunday Mass • Automatic bank payment
- St Benedicts App • Tap and Go

Our bank account number is 02 0108 0706611 000 “St Benedicts Parish”

If you need assistance or require more information, please contact the parish office on 09 379 0624

- Reconciliation Rite I is available before Mass on Saturday evenings from 5pm-5.45pm.

- Please check the notice boards in the foyer for upcoming events.
- When visiting St Benedicts please DO NOT park illegally or block cars in.

Please see over page for parish weekly schedule and free parking details.

CATHOLIC KIWI PODCAST: Six episodes of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference's new podcast series have now been released, sharing stories of faith, ministry and mission of Kiwis and visitors to our shores. Guests in the opening episodes include Carmelite Sister Lauren of the Cross, broadcaster and policy expert Tim Wilson and Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM. More episodes will be released before Christmas to complete season 1, with season 2 set for 2026. Search “Catholic Kiwi Podcast” on YouTube or Spotify now.

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:
Alice Swann, Teresa Rajaratnam, Phil Bawden, David Master, Rus Quinn, Gladys Borgueta, Margie Newman, Jason Oxenham, Arleen Canlas.

We remember those who have died recently: Ruth McCloy

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Brian Henderson, Mary O'Brien, Katherine Mahoney, Edward Jones, Grace Mulligan, Evangeline Ashby, Dorothy Flemming, Patrick Keenan, Michael Swann, Helena Johnston, Myrtle Nicol, Joan Scanlan, Vicky Kennedy, Terence Nelson, Monica Managh, Audrey Brown, Jean Bruce, Christopher Byrne, Brian Mercer, Frank Dougherty, Kathleen Borg, Thomas Ryan, John Fouhy, Maureen Murphy, Augustus Higgins, Michael Carney, Francis Smith, Anne Munro, Nita Grinter, Mons James Shannahan.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord